

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument relative to a base, which comprises:
 - a mounting portion configured and dimensioned to engage a portion of a base;
 - a jaw assembly including first and second jaw members which define a retaining area therebetween configured and dimensioned to retain the shaft of a surgical instrument therein and thereby fix the length of the instrument shaft relative to the base and an operative site; and
 - an instrument position adjustment mechanism which includes an adjustment member movably disposed relative to the mounting portion to facilitate selective position adjustment of the jaw assembly with respect to the mounting portion.
2. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the adjustment member is rotatably disposed relative to the mounting portion.
3. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the adjustment member is pivotably disposed relative to the mounting portion.
4. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the instrument position adjustment mechanism further includes a lock member movably disposed relative to the adjustment member, wherein the lock member moves from a locked position such that the adjustment member is prevented from moving relative to the mounting portion to an unlocked position wherein the adjustment member is permitted to move relative to the mounting portion.
5. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 4, wherein the lock member is rotatable.
6. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the jaw assembly further includes a jaw approximation control member which controls movement of one of the first and second jaw members relative to the other of the first and second jaw members.

7. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the adjustment member is a ball which is received in a socket formed on the mounting portion.

8. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the mounting portion defines a surface configured and dimensioned to engage a rim portion of a base to facilitate mounting the apparatus to the base.

9. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the mounting portion includes first and second mounting sections configured and dimensioned to engage a portion of a base.

10. Apparatus for holding an instrument relative to a base according to claim 9, wherein the first and second mounting sections are opposingly disposed with respect to each other to facilitate mounting the apparatus over a top portion of a base.

11. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 10, wherein the first and second mounting sections are movably disposed with respect to each other.

12. Apparatus for holding a surgical instrument according to claim 9, wherein the first and second mounting sections are movably disposed with respect to each other.